

Sand Point Traditions Begins Its Work

By Maureen A. O'Neill

One of the newest community center advisory councils is the Sand Point Traditions Advisory Council. Although the council has been in existence since 2002, it had to wait to be truly active until the renovation of Sand Point's Community Recreation Center (Bldg 47) and the Community Activity Center (Bldg 406).

The council also had to wait for the assignment of an Assistant Recreation Center Coordinator to develop and manage programs. In February, the Parks Operation Division appointed Karla Withrow to fill this position at Sand Point. In just a few short weeks, Karla has developed a spring program that rivals many of our other community centers.

We will offer other programs at the Sand Point Community Center including senior adult activities coordinated by Jayla McGill, Senior Adult Recreation Specialist through the Recreation Support Division, as well as recreation programs by private providers such as Gymboree, Greenstage Theater, Jazzercise, YATMA, and the "Y."

A sampling of programs offered this spring by Sand Point Traditions and Parks includes: Family Bingo Night, Video Theater, Summer Family Concerts, Seattle Public Library Reading Program and Entertainment, Indoor Play Park, sports for kids of all ages, a variety of dance and exercise classes including Pilates, art classes including bookbinding, beading, batik; Theater for Kids, Hip Hop for teens, guitar classes, martial arts, and Japanese woodcarving.

Who are the members of Sand Point Traditions? Doug Chandler is president, with members Paula Holden, Susan Lynette, Evi Emmenegger, Doug Chandler, Kim Klaffky, Anne Lester, Jessica Johnson, and Brian Swanson. Malcolm Boyles, the recently retired Sr. Program Coordinator for Sand Point Magnuson Park in 2002 and 2003, recruited these individuals. They bring a variety of experience and interests, and want to see the very best in community recreation offered at the newest community center in Seattle.

Ken's Corner

2004 Budget Cuts

I wanted to give you an update on the Department and City budget picture.

We continue to streamline our operations to help rebalance the City's 2004 "general fund" budget and help reduce new facility costs anticipated in 2005. Last November's State Supreme Court decision prohibiting the city from using City Light funds to pay for street lights created a multi-million dollar gap in the budget. In late March, the City Council approved reductions from the 2004 budget totaling \$9.3 million. Earlier in the year, the Mayor and City Council worked together for several weeks to come up with the proposed cuts. All but three general fund departments reduced their budgets.

At Parks, the reductions totaled \$1.5 million. Our approach continued to be finding administrative and efficiency savings and reducing services to the public only as a last resort. The major cuts included:

- Reduced funding for Computer replacement and software
- Reduced sign and fence maintenance budgets
- Less general fund support for the Seattle Conservation Corps and for Planning and Project Development
- Reduced comfort station cleaning
- Less money for Seattle Aquarium exhibit improvements

For a complete list of the reductions please see the Mayor's budget web page at <http://seattle.gov/mayor/issues/budget2003.htm>

The City continues to face economic challenges as it develops the 2005-2006 budget, including the City Light street light costs and cost for operation and staffing of several new facilities, including new community centers. I will continue to keep you informed.



Ken Bounds, Superintendent



Gym program for Sand Point CC

2004 ARC Annual Meeting

ARC held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Feb. 23. We elected ARC Board members for the five positions whose terms expire each year and recognized the accomplishments of advisory council members and staff. Recent Opportunity Fund Grant recipients also presented their projects. Attendance at this year's meeting was outstanding, with approximately 114 people, representing 32 out of our 37 advisory councils present.

ARC also honored the following individuals:

- **Asfaha Lemlem**, Yesler Advisory Council/Yesler Learning Center, for his efforts to bring greater self-sufficiency to low-income residents of Yesler Terrace through the computer lab.
- **Gil Petitt**, for over a dozen years of involvement with Rainier Advisory Council. Gil was one of the founders of Project Compute.
- **Susan Harmon**, a long-time Southwest Advisory Council member and former ARC Board member, for promoting fairness, equity and justice.
- **Dale Johnson**, Carkeek Advisory Council, for his exemplary devotion to the trails at the park.
- **Diane Thompson**, for her 25 years of volunteer contribution to Montlake Advisory Council. She has been very active in the planning, implementation and annual financial review of programming and budgets.

The ARC Board presented the following awards:

- **Presidents Award** for outstanding service by an ARC Board Member to Darrell Drew for his involvement in the Child Care Focus Group and his chairing of the Opportunity Fund and Vending committees.
- **A special award** to Bill Keller, ARC Executive Director, for his leadership and vision.
- **Most Improved Advisory Council Award** to Rainier Beach Advisory Council for its success in expanding advisory council membership, and increasing programming and community partnerships.
- **Fabiola Woods Most Inspirational Advisory Council Member Award** to Sue Kershaw of South Park Advisory Council for her long standing advocacy for South Park community members.
- **Staff Person of the Year Award** was presented to Denise Pittman, retiring coordinator of South Park Community Center for her inspiration and dedication.
- **Advisory Council of the Year Award** was presented to Green Lake Crew Rowing Advisory Council for its outstanding programming and operation.

The following members were elected to the ARC Board for three-year terms: **Ed Hiroo**, Jefferson Advisory Council, **Al Hovland**, Laurelhurst Advisory Council, **Julie Morse**, Bitter Lake Advisory Council, **Sharon Mahsman**, Loyal Heights Advisory Council, **Kiki Hendren**, Member At Large. Thank you to everyone who attended this year's AGM.

— Anna Martin, ARC Board President

Fritz Hedges: Parks Navigator

Many of you have heard the sad news about the death of long-time Parks staff member and "planning guru" Fritz Hedges. He died on Saturday March 27 of an apparent aneurysm while riding his bicycle in Edmonds.

As friends and family grieved his sudden passing at the age of 60, we also recalled his life and accomplishments over his 33 years at Seattle Parks and Recreation. At a celebration of Fritz's life on April 1, Superintendent Ken Bounds called Fritz "the department's navigator and cartographer." He credited Fritz's work on the Department's first comprehensive plan (Complan) for laying the groundwork for many of the major park improvements in the last 20 years, including the 1991 and 1999 community center levies, the Neighborhood Plans, which included many park projects, and the 2000 Pro Parks Levy, a \$198.2 million package of more than 100 park improvement projects. Earlier in his career, Fritz worked on the Forward Thrust and 1-2-3 bond issues as well as major planning and environmental documents for Discovery Park.

Fritz also had a profound and lasting impact on recreation programs and facilities. The Complan guided the development of a new generation of community center buildings with flexible spaces that could be used for a variety of uses. Fritz was also at the forefront of efforts to improve teen programs, environmental stewardship and health and fitness programs for employees and the general public.

More than anything else, Parks staff will miss Fritz's warmth, wit and wisdom, which he was always willing to share with others.



Fritz Hedges

Youth and Teen Leaders Wow Georgia Conference

By Patti Petesch

Nine teens and four Teen Development Leader staff traveled last month to Savannah, Georgia to present two sessions at the National Youth-at-Risk and Prevention Conference. Session attendees raved about the youth presentations (including a standing ovation!) and recommended to organizers that more such presentations be included in future conferences.

Teens from Loyal Heights and South Park community centers led a session on the Prudential Youth Leadership Program and the teens from Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center gave a presentation on the Summer Musical youth program.

The session on the Prudential Youth Leadership Program outlined the development of leadership skills that enable young people to improve their local communities. The Loyal Heights group talked about the community mapping project and how it helps them to better understand the risks in their neighborhood and how to reduce the risks for teens. The South Park group described a Jeopardy game they designed to show risks in the greater Seattle area vs. the increased risks for teens in their community.

Langston Hughes leaders and teens delivered a PowerPoint show describing the Summer Musical, with footage of last year's "The Soul of Beauty and the Beast," and involved session attendees in some of the exercises the teens participate in to develop their peer resistance skills, self-esteem and leadership skills.

Both programs are supported by the three advisory councils: Loyal Heights, South Park, and Langston Hughes. The youth were the recipients of a Teens Giving Back Grant for \$3,999 and each group received support from the advisory councils, either through teen or council fundraising.

Mt. Baker Rowing and Sailing Center Expansion

By Peggy Tosdal

For almost 20 years the Mt. Baker Rowing and Sailing Center (MBRSC) has made a difference to thousands of people, young and old, with opportunities for athletics, education, safety training, teamwork and community service. The two original buildings of the MBRSC have grown increasingly more congested, leading to crowded and potentially unsafe conditions for participants. Simply stated, our outreach has reached capacity.

The Mt. Baker Boating Advisory Council has undertaken a \$1.9 million project to expand the facility. Although we have received some grants from government and private foundations, much of the capital must be raised from private sources.

This major renovation provides needed space for current programs and prepares the Center for many more years of public recreation. Here's what we gain:

- More rowing shell storage
- Mast-up storage for sailboats
- Storage space for open-water kayaks
- Multipurpose indoor activity space
- Maximize boating programs 12 months a year
- ADA-accessible locker and shower facilities
- ADA-accessible public meeting space
- Improved public access to a more attractive facility



Mt Baker Rowing and Sailing Center

The Council invites you to join us in making this ambitious project a lasting legacy for the community. We welcome your generous gifts of cash, appreciated securities, or in-kind donations of construction materials or professional services. There are many ways to help! For more information, please contact Peggy Tosdal, Mt. Baker Rowing and Sailing Center, at 206-386-1913 or peggy.tosdal@seattle.gov



Unique Partnership Boosts Community Garden Project

A dramatic transformation is taking place at the Magnuson Community Garden in the form of a amphitheater and trellis on the west side of the garden near the Community Activity Center. Community Garden members have been developing the amphitheater for the last two years and installed the signature element—the amphitheater arbor—this past winter.

The funding and development of the amphitheater is the result of a partnership among the nonprofit Magnuson Community Garden Board, Parks, the University Lions Club, and Fruhling Construction.

Fruhling Construction donated in-kind services valued at \$50,000 to remove the parking lot and grade the amphitheater. Magnuson Community Garden secured donation of landscaping blocks (\$12,000) for the seat walls and amphitheater terraces. A Neighborhood Matching Fund grant paid for the concrete walkways and irrigation.

Parks provided old wooden pilings from South lake Union that were milled for the vertical posts for the arbor, and provided timbers from old demolished buildings for the trellis sections atop the arbor.

The amphitheater is expected to get lots of use as a gathering space for theatrical productions, weddings, and as an outdoor classroom.

Credits

Anna Martin, ARC Board President;
Bill Keller, ARC Executive Director; David Takami, Editor;
Margarite Hargrave, Designer.
For information or comments please call or e-mail David at 206-684-8020, david.takami@seattle.gov

Pyramid Pilot Project

By Pam Banks

Meadowbrook Community Center staff are rolling up their sleeves in preparation to operate the Pyramid Project's first major test of the Class Software system at a community center. The Pyramid Project, a joint ARC and Parks endeavor, will automate registration, facility booking and point-of-sale functions in all facilities.

The pilot project, which uses the Class software application and a desktop computer that serves as both a cash drawer and a stand alone computer, is slated to run from April 26 to June 28. Besides updating the automated system to support the sale of items and to streamline the facility booking process, the pilot project will demonstrate the effectiveness and efficiency of running a single bank. In the single bank, all funds collected are deposited to a city account and then distributed to ARC based upon where the funds should flow.

The Department has been testing Class software and reviewing existing business practices to determine how to provide staff with the tools to better manage operations and finances, and improve customer service by providing customers with more information and the ability to register for any program in the city at any site, over the phone or on the web. Several phases of the Pyramid rollout are slated over the next two years, with the goal of every site having access to the system by the end of 2006.

Yesler Teens Put to Work

Yesler Community Center teens, in partnership with the Seattle Housing Authority (SHA) and the Yesler Community Council, are delivering fliers announcing monthly community council meetings. Beginning in February, up to eight teens delivered 450 fliers to Yesler SHA homes, earning \$75 per month for this work. The Yesler Advisory Council coordinates the project. Funding comes from the SHA Resident Participation funds.



Special Events

Month of April

Earth Day is April 22 but Seattle Parks and Recreation celebrates "Earth Month" during the entire month of April with a variety of programs and volunteer events at parks and community centers. Please see www.seattle.gov/parks for details.

Thursdays, April 15-June 3

Youth Leadership Program at Rainier CC

Thursdays 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. Fun, active leadership and service experience for youth. Please call 206-684-7136.

Friday, April 16

3-on-3 Basketball Tournament at Ravenna-Eckstein CC

6:15-8:30 p.m. Cool prizes for the winners of each division! Deadline to sign up, April 14 Free! For information, please call 206-684-7534.

Friday, April 30

Teen Talent Showcase @ Seattle Center Center House

For information, please call 206-684-4550

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